

FOR THOSE whose curiosity never had been satisfied in the matter of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, last week offered some morbid interest.

As a result of a recently published book by British author Michael Eddowes, and the powers made available under the Freedom of Information Act, interest was focused on Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who was blamed for having shot down the late president as Kennedy rode smiling and waving in an open-topped automobile through Dallas, Texas, Nov. 22, 1963. Eddowes proposed that the man believed to be Oswald was in reality an impostor: Soviet spy Alek James Hiddell, who assumed Oswald's identity in the Soviet Union and continued the role across the world to the U.S.

The New York Post, in a copyrighted article, related that the late J. Edgar Hoover, *eminence grise* of the FBI for decades, wrote a memo to the State Department on June 6, 1960, when Oswald was known to be residing in the USSR. The memo, pried from the National Archives through the Freedom of Information Act, was reported by the Post to read: "Since there's a possibility that an impostor is using Oswald's birth certificate, any current information the Dept. of State may have concerning this subject will be appreciated."

Nine months later, Hoover's query bore fruit in the form of a memo from Edward Hickey, chief of State's passport division, to the consular section: "It has been stated

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'Oswald' a Soviet Spy?

that there is an impostor using Oswald identification data and that there is no doubt the Soviets would love to get hold of his valid passport."

Although the Warren Commission found, after apparently exhaustive efforts, that Oswald acted alone in shooting down the president from a window of a school book depository building overlooking Dallas' Dealey Plaza, other sources have pursued since then various theories pointing to a possible conspiracy.

Last week, Eddowes' contribution to the literature of conspiracy prompted authorities in Dallas to move for the exhumation of Oswald's body. Dallas County Medical Examiner Charles Petty told reporters he had sent a formal letter to officials in neighboring Tarrant County requesting the exhumation and a new autopsy. The man assumed to be Oswald was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Earlier in the year, Eddowes himself had given evidence to a Tarrant County district court and asked for the exhumation of the supposed Oswald's corpse. The court, advising that such a request could be honored only if it came from Dallas County authorities, dismissed the suit. Eddowes took it to Dallas.

Assistant medical examiner Dr. Linda Norton said: "The data was presented to us in August and it took some time to evaluate.

"We had to decide if it was in the public interest and if it was worth spending public money. We decided it was.

"The data presented to us involves scars, height, eye color and things like this. There are discrepancies from autopsy records taken after he was killed and records of Oswald when he was in the Marines."

Norton added that her office had inquired of the U.S. Marine Corps and obtained dental records from Oswald's military file. If the exhumation order were successful, she said, the dental charts would be used against evidence in the new autopsy.